



New Jersey Economic Update

January 28, 2016

Summary

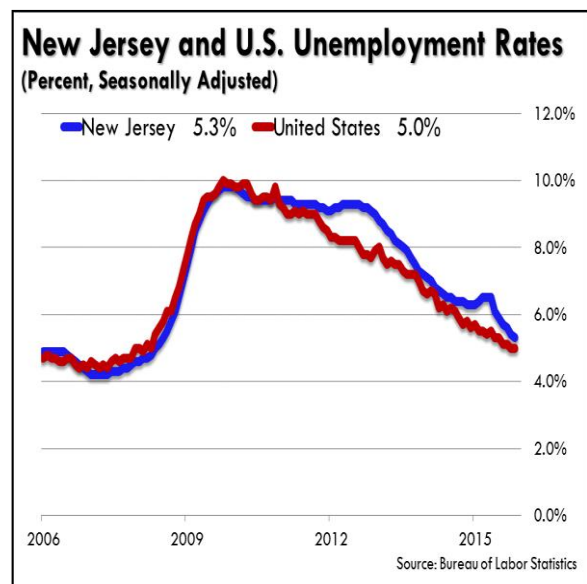
Nonfarm payroll employment in New Jersey increased by 13,300 jobs and the unemployment rate decreased to 5.1 percent in December according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

New Jersey Unemployment Rate

During December, the unemployment rate in New Jersey decreased by 5.1 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed decreased by 8,100 in December to 235,200, while the labor force increased by 24,200 to 4,568,000.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in New Jersey was 9.8 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in New Jersey occurred in January 1977 when the unemployment rate reached 10.7 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in New Jersey was 4.2 percent in May 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in New Jersey occurred in May 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 3.5 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in December. December's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2006.



New Jersey Payroll Employment

New Jersey nonfarm payrolls increase by 13,300 jobs, or 0.3 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,800. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in New Jersey increased by 65,200 or 1.6 percent. New Jersey nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls rose by 292,000 in December, or 0.21 percent. Over the 12-month period ending in December 2015 nonfarm payrolls have increased by 2,650,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent.

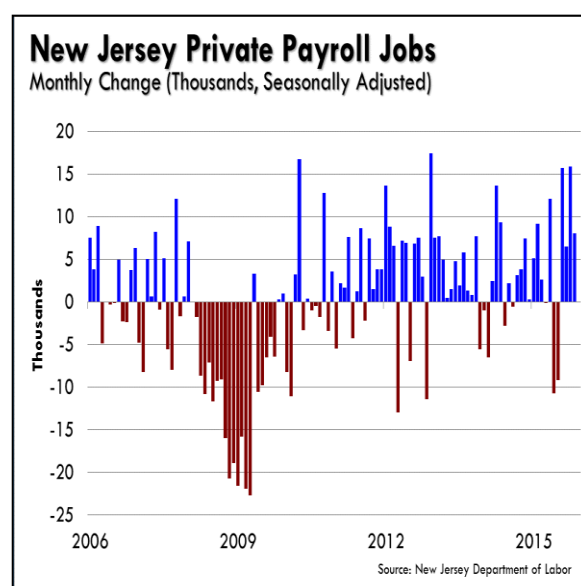
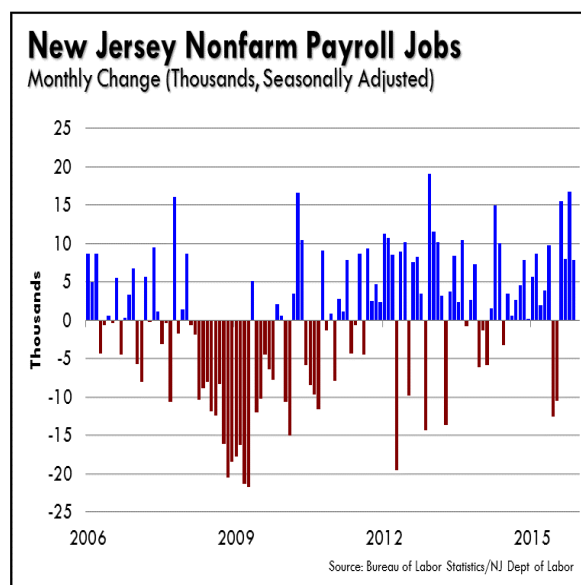
During December, New Jersey private-sector payrolls increased by 12,500, or 0.4 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 4,900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in New Jersey increased by 64,500, or 1.9 percent. New Jersey private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 275,000 in December, or 0.23 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,551,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.1 percent.

During December, total government payroll employment in New Jersey increased by 800, or 0.1 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 500, or 1.0 percent. State government payroll employment decreased by 400, or 0.3 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.2 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.1 percent. State government payroll employment decreased by 400, or 0.3 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 300 or 0.1 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were professional and business services (6,700) and trade, transportation, and utilities (2,400).



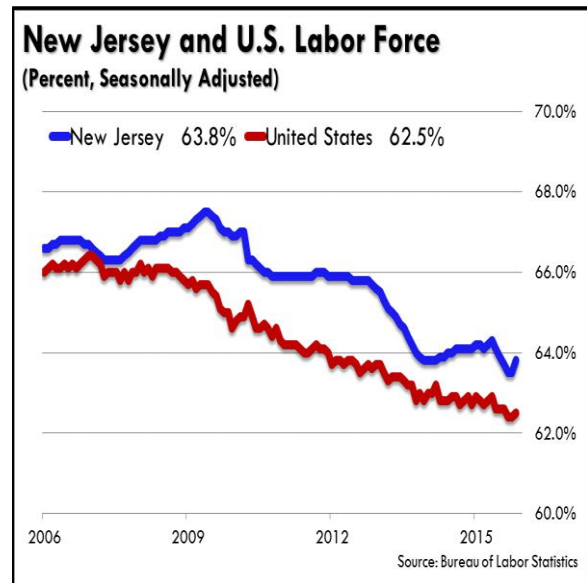
The poorest performing sectors during the month were financial activities (-600) and leisure and hospitality (-200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were education and health services (16,200) and trade, transportation, and utilities (11,200). The poorest performing sectors for the year were government (+700) and financial activities (+1,700).

Other New Jersey Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in New Jersey increased to 64.1 percent in December. The labor force participation rate in New Jersey is the same as a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

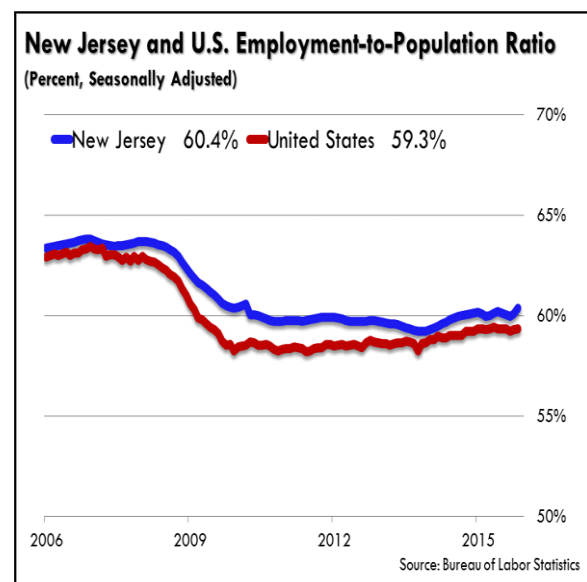
The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey was 67.5 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey occurred in March 1997, when the labor force participation rate hit 67.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 63.5 percent in October 2015.



The national labor force participation rate increased to 62.6 percent in December. That rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate remains near its post-recession low.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the New Jersey civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, increased to 60.8 percent in December.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey was 63.8 percent in November 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 64.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.2 percent in



November 2013. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in January 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 54.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.5 percent in December. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier, and 0.1 percentage point higher than it was when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release on March 14th. The national employment situation report for January will be released on Friday, February 5th.